



THE DRUMMER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH TUESDAY
AT THE LEBANON COMMUNITY ROOM
AT 7:30 PM

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10 OCT. 98

MEETING: We had the birthday bash at Bonanza in Lebanon. Nineteen of our members were present for the program by Dick Peake and for the door prizes and fellowship. If you were not present, you missed a really great time.

Happenings:

October 15th, Bob Riggs and Dave Worley went to Laurel Bed Lake, where they found lots of birds. Highlights of the trip were 67 Wood Ducks, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, 1 Ruffed Grouse and a Red-Shouldered Hawk.

October 17th, Bob Riggs, Jean, JoAnn and Marty went to Laurel Bed Lake, where the highlights were Rusty Blackbirds, Pectoral Sandpiper, Green Heron and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Oct. 19th, Bob And Jean Montgomery had a fall-out at their home. Jean said she had never seen so many birds there. The highlight was Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Helpful Hints: If you had too many grackles and starlings at your feeders this summer, try switching to safflower seeds next summer. These birds do not care for safflower and neither do squirrels. It could save you some money.

I have had people tell me they do not feed in the spring and summer, but it is an important time to feed. It is much easier on a mother to sit her eggs and feed her young if a handy food source is located nearby. Remember that most plants do not produce seeds until late in the season.

October Meeting: The October meeting will take place on the 27th at 7:30 pm at the Lebanon Community Room. We will plan field trips and meetings for next year. Your input is needed to make them as interesting as possible. We will also be nominating officers for next year.

1999 Dues: It is time to start collecting dues for next year. All memberships expire on Dec.31, 1998. \$8 is a small amount, but is necessary if we continue to operate as a club and print our newsletter. You can pay your dues at the regular meeting or send them to Tom Hunter, Treasurer at Rt. 1 Box 413B Lebanon, Va. 24266

Presidents` Corner: What a birthday bash! The meal was great and the company even better.

I want to thank everyone who donated their time, a door prize, or who gave a program and even those of you who just showed up. Because of all of you, we had a fabulous time. Dick did a great job on a program custom made for our area. Thanks Dick.

The world around us is changing. Our summer residents are leaving and the winter residents are arriving. I saw my first White Throated Sparrow just a few days ago, and that is usually the first indicator of arriving winter species. The mountains are bursting with color and the migrants are heading south, some stopping for a while to feed and rest. The arriving winter species are adding their energy and colors to the shortened winter days.

Now is the time to start watching for flocks, which often contain many different species.

Speaking of flocks, lets flock together on October 27th at 7:30pm at the Lebanon Community Room for our next meeting. We will make our plans for next years field trips and maybe even a Christmas get-together. We need to hear about the birds you want to see and when you are available to go, so plan to attend and put in your ideas.

The Mendota Hawk Watch was up and running this year, with better coverage than recent years. Larry McDaniel, president of the Bristol Bird club and also a member of our club, would like to have even better coverage next year.

Here are this years numbers, for 18 days.

Black Vulture	70	Turkey Vulture	144
Osprey	15	Bald Eagle	4
Northern Harrier	5	Coopers Hawk	37
Sharp -shinned Hawk	43	N. Goshawk	5
Broad-winged Hawk	5582	Red-tailed Hawk	28
A. Kestrel	9	Merlin	2
Peregrine Falcon	4		

Mendota highlights: Sept. 20th over 2000 Broad-wings in one hour.

Sept. 21st a Peregrine Falcon lands on the fire tower.
Sept. 24th a Wilson`s Warbler feeds in the area.

There were 14 species of warblers seen at Mendota during the hawk watch.

Editor: I have really enjoyed the club meetings, field trips and even putting together the newsletter. I hope all of you will continue to attend these functions and help the club enjoy their birding. Thanks.